

# Calcoin News

Official Publication of the  
California State Numismatic Association

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## C O N T E N T S

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Volume 6, Number 2

MARCH, 1952



# Santa Rosa, Convention City

Of Santa Rosa, Luther Burbank has written: "I firmly believe from all I have seen that this is the chosen spot of all the Earth as far as Nature is concerned. The climate is perfect . . . all must like it. The air is so sweet that it is a pleasure to drink it in. The sunshine is pure and soft; the mountains which gird the valley are lovely. The valley is covered with majestic oaks placed as no human hand could arrange them for beauty."

Santa Rosa's colorful background is perhaps best exemplified by its early history. The city was founded in 1833 by General Vallejo. In 1854 a group of Santa Rosans went to Sonoma and stole the courthouse records, moving them to Santa Rosa

and proclaiming Santa Rosa as the county seat. In 1875, the Baptist Church was built on the corner of "B" and Ross Streets, constructed with the lumber from one redwood tree.

Located on Highway 101, some 50 miles north of San Francisco, Santa Rosa lies in the heart of a rich agricultural area and has always been among the first ten counties in the United States in the value of its agricultural products. It is the shopping center for not only Sonoma County, but Lake, Mendocino, and Napa counties which border to the north and northeast.

One of the most delightful side-trips available to visitors to Santa Rosa is to Asti, just 27 miles north,



MENDOCINO  
AVENUE,  
SHOWING  
COURT  
HOUSE

MAIN  
BUSINESS  
SECTION,  
FOURTH  
STREET





ITALIAN SWISS COLONY

where 70 years ago the founder of the Italian Swiss Colony first planted the prize wine cuttings, brought all the way from Europe. There, tucked away in the rolling hills of Sonoma County, this quaint colony produces the vintage wines which are today nationally and internationally famous for their excellence, and which have

won more than 100 gold medal awards.

A warm welcome awaits the visitor to this romantic wine-making community and it is well worth the time to visit the "Chapel in the Vineyards" and to see the largest underground wine tank in the world, where fifty couples once danced to the music of a band.



LUTHER  
BURBANK'S  
HOME AND  
GARDENS



# Who's Who In California Numismatics

~  
KENNETH W. LEE  
~

When asked what his hobby was, the reply came emphatically, "Fishing," and then, as an afterthought, "Of course, I collect coins and medals and decorations, but that is part of the business now." He has never lost his love for the sport immortalized by Isaac Walton and nothing is allowed to interfere with his annual expedition into the high Sierras just as soon as the fishing season opens in the spring. Even allowing for the latitude given to devotees of the piscatorial sport, it must be admitted that he is successful in his first choice in hobbies.

Kenneth W. Lee was born in Glendale, California, where he has lived all his life because, as he says, "I have never found another spot that I liked better," on June 30, 1907, the son of Ed. M. and May L. Lee. He has one brother, Wilbur, and a sister, Dorothy, both of whom also reside in Glendale. His father died in 1943.

After graduating from high school in 1925 he attended Occidental College for two years followed by two years at the University of Southern California, graduating as an advertising major. His first job with an advertising firm ended when the firm closed its door in the financial crash

of 1929. He next spent several months as announcer and continuity writer at Station KMTR in Los Angeles, followed by a short time in the printing business with his brother; and finally late in 1930 embarked in the coin and medal business with his father which he has made his life's work.

On September 23, 1930, he was married to his "one and only wife, Ruby." They have three children, Bill, Bob and Lynette, aged 19, 15 and 9, respectively, the oldest, Bill, now being in the Air Corps. Kenny admits that 15-year-old Bob is responsible for his abandoning bowling as a sport, Bob's average being so high that the element of competition is completely eliminated.

In the realm of numismatics he has what is probably the finest collection of fractional California Gold in existence. His father, from whom he inherited a portion of it, was considered the leading authority on that series, and Kenneth has added to it, having now more than 400 varieties. He states, "It is my desire some day to publish an up-to-date book on that subject."

In addition to active membership in the Glendale Optimist Club, he holds membership in many numismatic organizations. He was for many years district secretary for Southern California in the American Numismatic Association and is also a member in the American Numismatic Society, and belongs to many local clubs in California.

He was present at the first meeting at Fresno and at the second meeting at Santa Barbara in 1947 which brought the California State Numismatic Association into existence, and he has missed only one of its conventions.

# California Club News, Views, and Whos

## **LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB. —**

The joint annual banquet of the Los Angeles, Bay Cities, Garden Grove, San Fernando and Long Beach Clubs was held on the 19th of January at the Carolina Pines Restaurant in Los Angeles. President Adolph Larson of the Los Angeles club presided in his usual fine style and introduced the speakers from clubs ranging from San Diego in the south to San Francisco in the north. Among those present were Mr. Panosh, member of the ANA Board of Governors, with Mrs. Panosh; Ed Fogler, secretary of the San Francisco club; Dr. Rich and Dr. and Mrs. Emmons from the Orange County Coin Club, and many others. Entertainment in the form of several musical selections and an impromptu rendition of "Casey at the Bat" by Harold McCabe was enjoyed by all. Full credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Block for making the arrangements for this occasion.

The 275th meeting of the Los Angeles Coin Club was held at Forresters Hall on February 1, with President Adolph Larson presiding. In order to reduce expense and work for the secretary, it was decided to send notices of meetings bi-monthly, with the program announced for two months in advance. The meeting was devoted to matters of policy for the coming year, being followed by a short auction and inspection of the several fine exhibits made by Mr. Block and Mr. Koonce.

—William D. Koonce,  
Secretary.

\* \* \*

## **ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB.**

The 163rd regular monthly meeting of the Orange County Coin Club was held in the Brea Woman's Clubhouse on December 26 with President Rich presiding. Due to the demands of the holiday season, there were only 53 members and 7 guests present, the smallest attendance for this club for the past several years.

Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved. One new member was admitted to the club.

Program Chairman Dr. C. Glenn Curtis presented Leonel C. Panosh of San Diego as the speaker for the evening. By way of introduction, Dr.

Curtis pointed out that Lew had many accomplishments to his credit as a numismatist. Not only is he a master collector of various media of exchange, but he has succeeded in reaching the top office of president of the California Numismatic Association and at the same time had himself elected to the Board of Governors of the ANA. However, said Dr. Curtis, as a member of the Orange County Coin Club, Lew has yet to reach the highest political pinnacle in that club, the office of president, which has finally been won by the great Doctor after 13 years of membership and striving to reach that goal. In his usual polite and diplomatic way, Lew indicated that he was only waiting for a crisis when the club would need to draft him.

In response to the invitation for him to appear, the speaker chose to repeat the subject on which he spoke to this club some time ago, "Coins of Malta." As before, he traced the history of the Grand Masters of Malta from the time of the Crusades, 1088-1292 A.D., until the year 1800 when Malta was taken as a possession of Great Britain. Then he described the coinage instituted by this order in 1521 while it resided on the island of Rhodes. The early coins were made similar to the coins made in Italy. They consisted of copper, silver, and gold coins, all with inscriptions of a strictly religious nature. Later coins followed the evolution of coinage in Europe where larger and thicker coins came into use. There were 51 Grand Masters and most of these had coins struck which can be attributed to their own particular time in office.

The speaker displayed many specimens of Malta coins, explaining that they are difficult to obtain and can be had mostly from collectors and dealers in Europe.

Following this interesting and instructive discourse on a subject not commonly known in this country, the meeting recessed for refreshments and then proceeded with the usual auction of coins offered by members and sold by Auctioneer Joe Steele.

—Herbert M. Bergen,  
Secretary.

**PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.**—The 430th regular meeting was held at the Palace Hotel on December 19, 1951, with 38 members and guests present. All regular business was suspended. Only election of officers was transacted with the following result: Jack Hecht, president; David L. Redfield, vice-president; Edward Fogler, secretary; Lesley Lodge, treasurer; Sidney Haas, librarian; and Kurt Loret, Robert Patterson and Erich Werling as members of the board of governors.

George Ruge, foreman of the Coining Department of the S. F. Mint and honorary member of the society, gave an interesting talk on the activities of the Mint and gave in detail the amount of different U. S. coins as well as foreign coins which were struck by the mint.

Edward Fogler gave a detailed report of the CSNA Convention at Santa Barbara and announced that the next convention of the Association will be held at Santa Rosa on April 4, 5 and 6, 1952.

After the meeting, Ed. Fogler presented Mrs. Bowker, in the name of the Society, with a well-chosen gift as a token of appreciation for the kind interest she had taken in the welfare of the Society. A buffet supper was served, consisting of sandwiches, candies, cakes, ice cream and coffee. Earl Parker distributed the many Christmas gifts to all members and guests present. Tom Twohey was elected to active membership.

—Edward Fogler, Secretary.

\* \* \*

The **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB** held its 43rd meeting, January 17, 1952 (third Thursday of the month), at the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce office with 15 present.

The City of San Bernardino Recreation Department is sponsoring a hobby show and our coin club has been asked to participate. Many members present brought or pledged exhibits for this affair, which is to be held later in the month.

The program of the evening was supplied by the ANA Visual Slides No. 8 on ancient coins. This was the first half of a two-section series on ancient coins—going through Philip II, 336 B.C. It is hard to realize how these coins, made 2500 years ago, can be just as beautiful as our

finest coins of today. The photography in this series is really fine. Different color backgrounds are used to bring out the highlights in each coin. We especially enjoyed reviewing the coins of Syracuse.

Exhibits of the evening included:

(1) English 1937 Coronation set in presentation case and U.S. 1804 Cent by George Fisher.

(2) Uncirculated Washington Quarter and Peace Dollar Sets by Bland Haydon.

(3) Ancient coins of beauty by Bryan Burke.

(4) Indian Head Gold type set by Opie Arnold.

(5) U.S. Half Dollars—Early and Recent by Herb Feinberg.

(6) Broken Bank Notes by George Rikken.

—Bryan Burke, Secretary.

\* \* \*

**SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.**—The 176th meeting of the club was held at Dartlee Hall on January 8 with Vice-President James Crouthamel presiding. Thirty-one members and four visitors were present. Principal order of business was making plans for the annual installation banquet to be held on January 26 at the U. S. Grant Hotel. Displays by Mr. Johnston, Mr. Boltz, Mr. Knickerbocker and Dr. Wallace were shown and explained. Refreshments followed, served by Mrs. Knickerbocker.

The 15th annual installation banquet of the San Diego Numismatic Society was held in the Riviera Room of the U. S. Grant Hotel on the evening of January 25, 1952, with 55 present, among whom were Dr. and Mrs. Emmons of Ontario, Harry and Mrs. Davidson of Los Angeles, and Ed Fogler of San Francisco. Mr. L. C. Panosh acted as master of ceremonies and installing officer. Displays covering practically every phase of numismatics were shown by members, ribbons being awarded to L. C. Panosh, coins of the world; T. W. Ward, ancient; L. G. Walrath, U. S.; Charles Leuschner, large and small cents; and James Malowney, Lincoln cents.

\* \* \*

**SAN JOSE COIN CLUB.**—The first meeting of the San Jose Coin Club in the New Year was greeted with a healthy rain from "Juvius Pluvius" but in spite of all the dampness, twenty-two members and

guests braved the weather and came out to enthusiastically support the new president, Mr. Geo. F. Hodges.

After the President's New Years Greetings, he presented each member with a new application blank and asked that each make a special effort to bring at least one new member in the coming year.

The address of the evening was given by the president who, after mentioning the many ways numismatics may be of interest to almost everyone, illustrated with a large map of the world and some seventy-odd coins displaying birds. He took his audience on an imaginary trip around the world, discussing the coins of those countries displaying birds.

In opening the address, it was pointed out the many avenues of thought opened by the symbolism expressed in the birds depicted by the various countries and shown on their coins, everything from scavenger to the Holy Spirit, such as: Innocence, Beauty, Love, Courage, Matrimony, Wisdom, Peace, Bravery, Strength, Power, Freedom, Skill, Might, and Messengers of Song and of the Holy Spirit, etc.

The meeting closed with the announcement that Mr. Ken P. Allen of Hills Bros. Coffee Co. would be the speaker at the next meeting and display his fine collection of "Early and Privately Minted Gold".

The February meeting of the San Jose Coin Club was held Monday, the 4th, in the Banquet Room of the Hotel De Anza with some thirty members and guests present, to hear Mr. Ken P. Allen talk on the "Early and Privately Minted Gold".

Mr. Allen brought with him a large display of the early gold and privately minted pieces, including several of the Fifty-Dollar Slugs from his collection, one of the fine gold collections in the State of California, if not the finest.

In his talk, Mr. Allen traced the early history of San Francisco before gold was discovered until the "Gold Rush" days and how the merchants profited sometimes by not having thoroughly tested scales and also in the degree of fineness of the product.

He pointed out that there were twenty-five pieces of privately minted gold and if anyone wished to have a complete collection he might be able to secure all of them at possibly a hundred thousand dollars or so if

he could find all of them.

Mr. Allen had done a great deal of research work on early California, and having had access to the original manuscripts in the Bancroft Library presented many facts of historical significance not commonly known to most folks, all of which was greatly enjoyed by those present.

After convention announcements by Mr. Ed. Fogler, the roving envoy of C.S.N.A., a fine auction was held with Earl Parker as auctioneer which brought everything from laughs to disappointments as well as too much or too little money, but lots of fun.

The meeting closed with the announcement that Commander H. F. Bowker, authority on Chinese money, will be the March speaker.

—George F. Hodges.

\* \* \*

**EAST BAY COIN CLUB.** — The February meeting was called to order by President S. S. Hawley at 8:30 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting and the Board of Governors' meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Attendance at the meeting was 45 members and eight guests.

The President appointed Mr. Monteagle and Mr. Crosman to serve as a committee to audit the books for 1951.

Exhibits were displayed by the following members:

Ken Allen—Gold display.

Roy Hill—Lincoln medals and pictures.

Earl Parker—Set of Victoria Jubilee coinage, proof set of Morgan half dollars.

Charles Steele—Uranium ore.

Clifford Bloom — \$2 Bill National note, 1863.

Arnold Rosing — Mint silver bar, 1949 Vatican set.

Walter Ritchie—Korean coins.

Rudy Gjurovich—Cigar bands.

Dennis Olswang—Lincoln coins.

A 1950 proof set in a plastic holder which was raffled was won by Frank X. Galvin.

The auction was then held, conducted by Charles Peters, Earl Parker and D. Bollinger.

Mr. Sidney Haas gave a talk on Korean coins, after which refreshments were served by Mr. Erich Werling.

—Antoinette Connell, Secretary.

# NAMES IN HISTORY

By DR. C. GLENN CURTIS, *Brea*

## CLEOPATRA



Here is a picture of the famous Cleopatra, the first glamour girl in history. This queen was the last of the Ptolemies to rule, because after her death in 30 B.C. Egypt became a province of the Roman empire. Cleopatra was only 39 when she died but in those few years she packed a lot of living. You will recall that this famous beauty posing for you was queen of Egypt at 17. A few years later she was a big shot in Rome. The story of her meeting with Julius Caesar proves Cleopatra got what she wanted. It seemed that Cleo had tried every way she could to meet Julius but without success. Finally she had herself rolled up into a large Oriental rug which was to be presented to the Roman bigwig. Imagine his surprise when the slaves unrolled the beautiful rug before him—and out stepped capti-

vating Cleopatra in pink nylon pajamas. After Julius Caesar was assassinated, Cleopatra beat it for Egypt where she ruled with an iron hand until Marc Antony came along. Cleopatra also made the headlines of history when, after having some sort of difficulty with Marc, he committed suicide and she caused her own death by having an asp bite her on the breast. The condition of this coin pictured here is not good. However, few coins of Cleopatra ever have been found in better condition. It might be that the coins of Cleopatra, like the original, had a rough and rugged life. On the reverse side of this ancient coin you see the Egyptian eagle, and lettering, "Queen Cleopatra".

## SIMON MACCABEAUS



## NATIONAL COIN WEEK APRIL 18-24, 1952

Coins, Token and Currency of the Colonies is the theme selected for the 1952 observance of National Coin Week, it is announced by the American Numismatic Association which annually sponsors this organized effort to call the attention of the public to our hobby.

Dr. F. Stevens Epps of Charleston, West Virginia, has been appointed general chairman, assisted by Ben A. Bagby of Huntington, West Virginia. Competition for awards will be in four classes, (1) Class A clubs; (2) Class B clubs; (3) Individual; (4) Junior clubs. First, Second and Third awards will be made in each class and every participant who reports to the awards committee will receive a suitably inscribed certificate.

Robert G. McArthur of Oakland has been named chairman of the awards committee which consists, in addition, of Frank X. Galvin and Erich Werling of Oakland and D. L. Redfield of San Francisco.

The coin you see here is the famous Jewish Shekel. It was struck during the reign of Simon Macabbeaus who was the Jewish king from 143 to 135 B.C. Jerusalem at that time was under the rule of Syria. When two claimants to the Syrian throne got to feudin', Simon picked the winner so the Jews were left pretty much in peace for a while. Simon, who was more of a high priest and prophet than a king, had two fairly good sons. So when the

← enemy became more or less of a nuisance, Simon sent his sons to fight them. While this was going on, Simon stayed at home and tended to his knitting on the home front where, according to the records, he did a good job and was well liked by his constituents. However, when Simon was an old man, he and his two sons were plied with drink, then in came the Syrians and killed them. The front of this coin of Simon Macabbeaus shows a cup with the years of this great Israelite's rule numbered above the cup. The reverse of the coin pictures a branch with three buds and the lettering "Jerusalem the Holy".

## Santa Rosa Convention Program Announced

"It is the same general pattern which experience has shown us is best fitted for our meetings," says General Chairman Fogler in announcing the program for the tenth semi-annual convention which will be held in Santa Rosa on April 4, 5 and 6. Activities will begin on Friday afternoon with setting out of displays and registration, with the Numismatic Program in the evening taking the form of a round table discussion.

Business meetings will be held on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and members are reminded that there will be election of officers as well as a proposed change in by-laws to be acted upon. Auction sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The usual banquet on Saturday evening and luncheon on Sunday noon will be held.

Several special events for the ladies are being planned and Chairman Fogler says that he has several other surprises in store for those who attend which will make this convention stand out. Programs together with reservation blanks for hotel accommodations, bourse and display cases and space are in the mail. You are asked to make your reservations early.

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### *Excuse, Please*

Our attention has been called to several inaccuracies in the story of the first attempt at organization of the CSNA which appeared in the program for the Santa Barbara Convention.

We are now informed on good authority that the first meeting was called to be held at the Californian Hotel in Fresno. Due to inclement weather, Dr. Emmons and his group failed to arrive, but Dr. C. Glenn Curtis, accompanied by Mrs. Curtis and Kenneth W. Lee, reached Fresno and were joined there by Earl Parker and Edward Fogler from San Francisco. Otherwise the story is correct, we are told.

Excuse, please.

Abraham Lincoln's likeness has appeared on more coins than that of any other person in all history.

# Orange County Coin Club Installs Officers

The Orange County Coin Club held its 13th annual banquet on January 23, 1952, at the Brea Woman's Club-house in Brea, California. Eighty-eight members and guests were served a delicious home-cooked turkey dinner, with all the well-known fancy trimmings, by a courteous and efficient crew of waiters recruited from club members. A poll of the guests taken after the meal revealed that both quantity and quality of the food satisfied everyone.

When the feast was finished, the program chairman, Herb Bergen, turned the meeting over to the Master of Ceremonies, Past President Harry Hanson, who entered at that moment attired in a Puritan costume. He announced that he came there as John Hull, Master of the Mint at Boston in Massachusetts Colony where the first coins of the North American Colonies were struck. With him appeared Mrs. Hanson, also attired in a Puritan costume and acting the part of Hannah Hull, wife of the first mint master at Boston. Together they presented a reincarnation of two eminent persons who had so much to do with the making of the Pine Tree shilling, the famous silver coin which was first struck 300 years ago and is now enshrined as the dearest possession of American coin collectors and numismatists. They reenacted scenes from the early operation of the mint and from everyday life in the colonies. It was most fitting, too, that the reincarnated Hannah Hull was in reality a descendant of the first clergyman who presided at Old South Church in Boston.

After so delightfully introducing the theme of the evening's program, the Master of Ceremonies welcomed all the guests and turned the spotlight on several persons, prominent in the numismatic world, who came from as far away as San Diego and San Francisco. And then he asked Dr. Calvert Emmons to speak briefly in memory of Past President J. R. Stewart, who had passed away only a few weeks before, after a short illness.

The next item on the program was the presentation of popular songs from various light operas by the

Ruth Armstrong Trio. The measure of applause following each song left no doubt that this musical treat made a great hit with the audience.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Milton C. Chapman, was then introduced. His subject, "Behind the Hobby", proved to be as timely and as pleasing as the preceding parts of the program. He declared that, although he had spoken to many different audiences on many different subjects, this was the first time that he had to deal with the subject of "numismatism" and he, therefore, found it necessary to do a lot of reading and research on the subject before attempting to talk about it before a group of professed numismatists. He was greatly surprised, he said, to find out that it was actually a science, as well as a hobby, covering one of the most important factors in the evolution of mankind in a civilized world. He traced the history and the importance of money from the earliest biblical times down to the present New Deal era of monetary madness. Although, in the main, the speaker dealt with his subject in a serious vein, he spiced his talk with many bits of subtle humor and clever satire. He paid special tribute to the program theme, the Pine Tree shilling, comparing the value and treatment of money in colonial days with the irresponsible and reckless monetary management we have today. Thus he warned that, if in this nation we long continue the present prodigal waste of money and resources, our next coin will be designed, not with the strong and stalwart emblem of a pine tree, but with a big empty cornucopia. The audience frequently interrupted the speaker with bursts of applause in approval of his remarks, and at the end extended a lengthy ovation for one of the finest addresses ever made before a gathering of numismatists in which the subject of their hobby and study was so completely encompassed.

With the main event of the evening over, it was time for the drawing of door prizes. The first and most significant prize was a Pine Tree shilling donated by the club and guaranteed to be genuine. Fifteen other prizes, numismatic items

of value and interest to both old and new collectors, were all donated by leading coin dealers of Southern California.

When the last prize was disposed of, the Master of Ceremonies announced that a rare piece of Swedish Plate Money from the fine collection of the club's noted collector, Dr. Curtis, would be placed on exhibition. The large denomination and tremendous size of this rare specimen was so unusual that two club members who are considered experts in this species of exchange were asked to come forward and classify it. To the amazement of everyone, they pronounced it to be a fraud. Embarrassing as it was, the Master of Ceremonies announced that it was his solemn duty under the laws of the Colony of Massachusetts to decree that any person found to be in possession of counterfeit money must be punished by placing him in stocks where he would be held in public scorn. As a result, Dr. Curtis was then and there put in stocks (furnished by Bergen & Co.) in full view of the entire assemblage of people at the meeting. Although there were a few who looked on this dramatic act as a joke, most of the onlookers nodded their approval of this method of teaching numismatists the lesson, "buy with care anything rare".

When the hubbub and excitement of corraling and chastising the counterfeit collector had died away, the Master of Ceremonies called on Past President Howard Robinson to conduct the installation of officers for the year 1952. Ordered to the center of the floor were Dr. C. Glenn Curtis, president; Arthur H. Shipkey, vice-president (represented by proxy Lloyd Gowdy); John Haldiman Jr., treasurer; Joe Steele, membership secretary; Dr. Verner G. Rich, Dr. Calvert L. Emmons, Fred E. Draper, and Harry S. Davidson, directors. Installer Robinson then dispensed with the usual verbal formalities of installations and said simply that he would merely bestow on each officer a little token appropriate to his office and himself. The sight of these tokens, seemingly silly but truly symbolic, combined with the subtle remarks of the bestower, soon put to flight the serious demeanor usually present on such occasions and everyone joined in a series of hearty laughs to seal the certification.

By some unaccountable error or inadvertance — some say it was intentional but no one will ever know, the name of Herb Bergen, the duly elected corresponding secretary, was omitted from the printed program and he was not called for the formal installation. When the omission was finally discovered by one person in the crowd who missed him, he promptly took advantage of the situation and handed out cards showing his record of offices held in the club at one time or another. Installer Robinson as promptly rewarded him with a token resembling a broken-down work horse.

After the conclusion of the hilarious installation of officers, the Master of Ceremonies asked the outgoing president, Dr. Rich, to respond to the subject of "I Did My Best". The good doctor not only told how he did his best to keep the club going on a high level during his time in office, but he also did his level best to tell some stories, fictitious and otherwise, about the incoming president. In his response, Dr. Curtis, true to form, said that in his regime there would be no oldfashioned "coiny" programs such as witnessed at this meeting. As an example of the modernistic entertainment he would sponsor, he called upon Miss Gale Moser, age 6, to play a series of hot numbers on her tiny accordion. Judging from the applause registered after her performance, it would appear that the Curtis type of programs will prevail at the 1952 meetings of the Orange County Coin Club.

With this final number, the meeting was adjourned, but the crowd lingered until a late hour to visit and talk about the events of the evening.

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## Coin Facts . . .

In the reign of Constantine the Great, laws were passed that made counterfeiters subject to high treason, and they were to be burned alive or consigned to the wild beasts.

One of the earliest known forms of money among mankind is shell money, which is still in use in the islands of the Pacific and parts of Africa.

A nugget of platinum weighing more than 21 pounds was found in Russia in 1843.

# From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

## RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

|                                               |          |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Cash on Hand, reported December 31, 1951..... | \$471.94 |
| Receipts: 1952 dues .....                     | 196.00   |
|                                               | <hr/>    |
|                                               | \$667.94 |
| Less: Disbursements:                          |          |
| Postage and Supplies .....                    | \$ 12.00 |
| Storage of Display Cases .....                | 7.30     |
| Printing .....                                | 7.42     |
| Bulletin .....                                | 194.95   |
|                                               | <hr/>    |
|                                               | 221.67   |
| Cash on Hand, February 15, 1952.....          | <hr/>    |
|                                               | \$446.27 |

## MEMBERSHIP

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Membership, December 31, 1951..... | 354   |
| Add: Gains: New Members.....       | 9     |
| Reinstatements .....               | 1     |
|                                    | <hr/> |
|                                    | 10    |
|                                    | <hr/> |
|                                    | 364   |
| Less: Losses:                      |       |
| Deceased .....                     | 1     |
| Resigned .....                     | 2     |
| Suspended NPD .....                | 5     |
|                                    | <hr/> |
|                                    | 8     |
| Membership, February 15, 1952..... | <hr/> |
|                                    | 356   |

## NEW MEMBERS

|     |                                    |                                           |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 487 | Cole, Clifton C. ....              | 2174 Humboldt St., Santa Rosa, Calif.     |
| 488 | Mills, Clipper E. ....             | 912 Beaver St., Santa Rosa, Calif.        |
| 489 | Morgan, W. C. ....                 | 1154 Beaver St., Santa Rosa, Calif.       |
| 490 | Valdez, Antonio G., Jr. ....       | 306½ W. Constitution, Victoria, Texas     |
| 491 | Wittlin, Mrs. Anna .....           | Box 2213, Carmel, Calif.                  |
| 492 | Dominguez, Francis .....           | 2238 Fulton St., San Francisco 17, Calif. |
| 493 | Smith, Alvin R. ....               | 681 Jean St., Oakland 10, Calif.          |
| 494 | Tully, Syl C., Jr. ....            | 454 Porter Ave., San Jose, Calif.         |
| 495 | Cooper, Eugene P. ....             | 4444 Artista St., San Diego 3, Calif.     |
| 496 | Boothe, Charles .....              | 132 Cypress Ave., Garden Grove, Calif.    |
| 497 | Dunlavy, Dr. Kenneth J., M.D. .... | Rt. 1, Box 20, Healdsburg, Calif.         |
| 498 | San Fernando Valley Coin Club      |                                           |
|     | Lester M. Wollard, Secretary.....  | 14516 Osborne St., Van Nuys, Calif.       |

## REINSTATED

|     |                      |                                |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 128 | Shaw, J. Craig ..... | 2037 Cedar St., Fresno, Calif. |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------------------|

## RESIGNED

|     |                        |                                        |
|-----|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 57  | Conner, Allen R. ....  | 860 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park, Calif. |
| 242 | Oliver, Irving H. .... | 3220 Vickers Dr., Glendale, Calif.     |

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

|     |                                     |                                         |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 117 | Bay Cities Coin Club                |                                         |
|     | C. G. Kimerly, Secretary.....       | 2101 Pier Ave., Santa Monica, Calif.    |
| 407 | Bollinger, Dempster L. ....         | 1644 4th Ave., Oakland 6, Calif.        |
| 336 | Brainard, Grace I. ....             | 152 E. 75th Ave., Los Angeles 3, Calif. |
| 327 | Brainard, Karl M. ....              | 152 E. 75th Ave., Los Angeles 3, Calif. |
| 31  | Connor, Willard C. ....             | 3946 23rd Ave., Sacramento 20, Calif.   |
| 227 | Katen, Frank J. ....                | P.O. Box 976, New Haven 10, Conn.       |
| 409 | Long Beach Coin Club                |                                         |
|     | Charles Cotten, Secretary.....      | 835 Sepulveda, San Pedro, Calif.        |
| 455 | McBride, Harold W. ....             | 2917 Linden Ave., Bakersfield, Calif.   |
| 53  | Orange County Coin Club             |                                         |
|     | John Haldiman, Secretary.....       | 17803 S. Pioneer Blvd., Artesia, Calif. |
| 174 | Parks, Stiles B. ....               | 809 E. 15th St., Los Angeles, Calif.    |
| 448 | Peters, Charles N. ....             | 2048 Encinal Ave., Alameda, Calif.      |
| 348 | San Bernardino County Coin Club     |                                         |
|     | Fred W. Coops, Secretary.....       | 524 4th St., San Bernardino, Calif.     |
| 81  | San Diego Numismatic Society        |                                         |
|     | Mrs. Anna M. Panosh, Secretary..... | P.O. Box 1773, San Diego 12, Calif.     |

# Orders and Medals Society of America

(A paper read at the 1951 convention at Santa Cruz.)

By EVERETT S. OSTROM, *Kingsburg*

The "Orders and Medals Society of America", which was organized about a year ago, now has 260 members. Of these, 27 are in England, 25 are on the European continent and 180 are in the United States. We have one member in India.

Members of this society collect medals, decorations and ribbons for same. To prevent misunderstanding,



I want to explain to you what we mean when we say "medals".

Medals which we collect were issued to be worn on ribbons. These medals were issued for wars,

campaigns; for zeal, for bravery, for meritorious service; for life-saving and for other similar services.

Very often war medals have metal "bars" attached to ribbons to specify in which campaign or campaigns the man participated.

The ribbons on which a medal is worn is an integral part of the medal and without it a medal is incomplete. Some ribbons for very old medals are just as scarce as are the medals themselves.

Quite often some medals or crosses have attached to their ribbon additional insignia which signify additional honors. For example, the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre sometimes have bronze "palm branches" or even large stars on their ribbons.

Certain inscriptions which regularly appear on the edges of war medals are very interesting; for instance, the war medals of Prussia of the period 1813-15 and 1870-71 have impressed on their edges, "made of a captured enemy cannon."

We do not collect medals which can be called "memorial" and which were issued without a loop, that is, not to be worn. These medals were issued usually in different sizes, and often were very large.

As in coins, in medals we are interested in the historical and geographical background. Take, for in-

stance, a British campaign medal issued 50 years or so ago. It was given to a soldier for a campaign against some little known Negro tribe of Equatorial Africa. This soldier passed through a terrific ordeal of fighting an invisible enemy in the impenetrable forests of Equatorial Africa and under the most adverse conditions. He marched with a full pack (a full pack in those times was something!) He marched for days, knee deep in mud; tze-tze flies menaced him and he had to dodge poisonous arrows and spears of the natives. He probably was wounded and exhausted but he fought and survived. He received a silver medal with his name and regiment impressed on the edge and he was justly proud of it.

War medals, as we have them now, are a comparatively new institution. In old times, that is, in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, only the commanders received medals, and these were made of gold especially for them. A nice little sum of money usually accompanied these medals which were worn on heavy gold chains around the neck.

In those times the soldiers did not receive any tangible rewards, only an honorable discharge. Russia was one of the first (probably the first) country to introduce war medals for rank and file. After the Battle of Poltava (1709) when Peter the First defeated the Swedes under Charles XII, all soldiers received a heavy silver medal, the size of a double ruble. This medal was worn on a silver chain around the neck. The Napoleonic Wars gave impetus to giving medals to the rank and file. The British Waterloo Medal (1815) is a fine example of it.

Many members of our society also collect Orders. Orders are badges which are given for honorable service to the state or for service to the governing house. Some orders are given for bravery in the field or at sea.

The membership fee in the OMSA is \$5.00 a year. Every member receives a monthly printed, illustrated magazine, **The Medal Collector**.

# MT. OPHIR MINT

Note: We are indebted to Mr. Arthur P. Denton of Piedmont for the following taken from a letter written to Dr. N. A. Bowers:

"At last I am sending a photo of the Mt. Ophir mint. — I found the brush around the ruins so close that it was difficult to get the whole ruins in the format. The descriptive sign on the road opposite the ruin says:

## MT. OPHIR MINT

"Built in 1850 by John L. Moffat, part owner of adjoining mine and of assay firm in San Francisco. Here, he coined in February, 1851, Fifty

for many years."

Joseph Henry Jackson's delightful book, *Anybody's Gold*, pp 307-8, says:

"It was some three hundred of these slugs, carried about his person, that cost a man his life and gave rise to one of the best legends of lost treasure to be found hereabouts.

"Early in the 1850s, Joseph Marre, tax collector for the county, was caught in a cloud-burst one evening as he rode toward Mariposa. They found him next day drowned. They found his horse, too, the saddle bags still in place. He was known to have had \$15,000 in gold slugs with him



Ruins of Mt. Ophir Mint, 1951

Dollar hexagonal gold coins from the local gold, all in accordance with act of Congress of Sept. 30, 1850, and repealed July 3, 1852; the only congressional act authorizing private coinage in California and making it legal tender. Its purpose was to correct the defects prevalent at that time of using gold dust and unauthorized private coinage in business. It proved beneficial and the price of gold advanced about \$2.00 per ounce. Some of these Mt. Ophir coins were held by Mariposa County residents

the night before, ready for deposit in the county treasury. But the saddle bags were empty. So were Marre's pockets. He wore no money belt. Plainly he had hidden the money somewhere for safe-keeping, perhaps before he tackled the swollen stream that swept him to his death. But where? Those 300 slugs would be a great fortune today. Yet, tho hundreds have dreamed and dug, following Marre's route as nearly as they could guess it, the money has never been found."

## Mail Ballot Proposed In By-Law Changes

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the resolution passed at the Santa Barbara convention, the following additions to the constitution and by-laws are proposed, for the purpose of changing the method of election of officers. The changes will be acted upon at the Santa Rosa convention.

Article 4, Section 3, shall read:

The President shall each year issue a call for nominations of officers to appear in the January issue of the Official Magazine. Such nominations may be made by any local Coin Club that is affiliated with this Association, or any 10 members that are in good standing.

Section 4 shall read:

All nominations shall be in writing and shall be sent to the Secretary, who shall immediately write to the respective nominees, notifying each of them of such nomination and requesting his or her acceptance in writing. Nominations shall be published in the March issue of the Official Magazine.

Section 5 shall read:

Immediately thereafter, the Secretary shall cause all accepted nominations to be printed on the official ballot and mail a copy thereof to each member entitled thereto, together with an envelope marked "Official Ballot" and a return-addressed envelope.

Section 6 shall read:

The envelopes containing the unexecuted ballots shall be retained by the Secretary unopened and shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Election Committee on the first day of the Spring Convention.

Section 7 shall read:

In case there are no nominations for any particular office, nominations may be made therefor until noon of the first business day of the convention, provided the written acceptance of the nominee is filed with the Secretary at the same time.

Section 8 shall read:

The polls shall close at noon of the first business day of the convention. The canvass of the ballots shall be conducted by the Election Committee and the report made the second or last day of the convention.

Stewart J. Bingham,  
By-Laws Committee Chairman.

## 300th Anniversary of the Pine Tree Shilling

On May 27, 1652, the Massachusetts General Assembly passed a law establishing the coinage of shillings, sixpence and threepence, and designating Captain John Hull as mint-master. Since England had refused the Colonies the right of coinage, this was in effect a declaration of independence, the first such incident of the many which ultimately led to final declaration of independence in 1776.

It was, to quote the bill in part, "enacted by the authorities of this Court, that all persons whatsoever have libertie to bring vinto the Mint Howse, at Boston, all bullion, plate, or Spanish coyne, there to be melted, and brought to the allow of sterling siluer by John Hull, master of the sd mint and his sworne officers and by him to be coyned into twelue pence, six pence and three pence peeces, which shalbe for forme flatt and



square on the sides and stamped on the one side with NE, and on the other side with XIId, VIId, and IIIId, according to the value of each peece, together with a priuie marke, which shalbe appoynted euery three monethes by the Gouvernor, & Knowne only to him and the sworne officers of the Mint." — "And the Mint Master for himselfe and officers for their paynes and labour in meltinge, refineinge, and coyninge, is allowed by this Court to take one shilling out of euery twenty shillings which he shall stamp as aforesd."

No event in our history is more worthy of commemoration in the coinage of the United States than the minting of the Pine Tree Shilling in 1652. It would commemorate the first "Declaration of Independence" and also the first coinage in America. Senate bill (S.290) and House bill, (H.R. 1286) to bring this about with the coinage of a commemorative 25-cent piece, are in the committees on Banking and Currency.

# STATE CLUB MEETING DATES AND PLACES

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB  
Santa Monica

Second Thursday at Joslyn Hall.  
C. G. Kimerly, Secty., 2101 Pier Ave.,  
Santa Monica, Calif.

CAPITAL CITY COIN CLUB  
Sacramento

Second Friday at David Lubin School.  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 547, West  
Sacramento, Calif.

CLASSICAL COLLECTORS GROUP  
Los Angeles Area

Third Friday at homes of members.

EAST BAY COIN CLUB  
Oakland

Second Friday at Jenny Lind Hall,  
2229 Telegraph Ave. Antoinette Con-  
nell, Secty., 2009 86th Ave., Oakland  
21, Calif.

GARDEN GROVE COIN CLUB  
Garden Grove

First Thursday at Chamber of Com-  
merce office. Richard Elliott, Secty.,  
12702 Euclid, Garden Grove.

HANFORD COIN CLUB  
Hanford

First Tuesday at 1117 N. Irwin St.

LONG BEACH COIN CLUB  
Long Beach

Third Tuesday at 951 Locust Ave.  
Charles Cotten, Secty., 835 Sepul-  
veda, San Pedro, Calif.

LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB  
Los Angeles

First Friday at 1329 S. Hope St.  
William D. Koonce, Secty., 4269 Fair  
Ave., N. Hollywood, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB  
Orange County

Fourth Wednesday at Woman's Club-  
house, 336 S. Pamona Ave., Brea.  
Herbert M. Bergen, Secty., P.O. Box  
98, Fullerton, Calif.

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
San Francisco

Last Wednesday at Palace Hotel,  
Market and New Montgomery Sts.  
Edw. Fogler, Secty., 717 Sutter St.,  
San Francisco 9, Calif.

PASADENA COIN CLUB  
Pasadena

Third Wednesday at Social Hall, Pas-  
adena City College.

REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB  
Santa Rosa

Third Tuesday in Tap Room, Grace  
Bros. Brewery. Guy Chapman,  
Secty., 801 Benton St., Santa Rosa,  
Calif.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB  
San Bernardino

Third Tuesday, Chamber of Com-  
merce, 533 "E" St. Fred W. Coops,  
Secty., 524 4th St., San Bernardino,  
Calif.

SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
San Diego

First Monday, Dartlee Hall, 3680 6th  
Ave. Mrs. A. M. Panosh, Secty, P.O.  
Box 1773, San Diego 12, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COIN CLUB  
San Fernando

Second Thursday at N. Hollywood  
Woman's Club, Burbank and Vine-  
land. L. M. Wollard, Secty, 14516  
Osborne St., Van Nuys, Calif.

SAN JOSE COIN CLUB  
San Jose

First Monday at Hotel DeAnza, 233  
W. Santa Clara St. Geo. F. Kohl,  
Secty., 246 S. First St., San Jose 17,  
Calif.